

22 P308

Easterling, Deborah

From: paula loftis [p]loftis@yahoo.com]
 Sent: Saturday, February 19, 2011 12:05 PM
 To: Contact
 Subject: SCE&G electric rate increase request

S.A.

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To: South Carolina Public Service Commission:

This correspondence is to express opposition to the Public Service Commission of the request by SCE&G for a rate hike for residential customers beginning in May for "fuel costs". SCE&G gives the rationale for needing the increase as the company being "under-collected". Of course, they are "under-collected", everyone is trying to conserve because of the outrageous expense and bills from SCE&G. People are bundling up and shivering in winter and shedding clothes and sweating in the summer.

I strongly recommend that the PSC inform SCE&G that it is past time that they began to run a more efficient operation, lower their management costs and manage their resources better as opposed to always expecting the public to foot the bill. I have not updated the data I have on SCE&G rate increases (28% from May 2004 to November 2008) but below is what I pulled together in 2008, likely many more increases have occurred since 2008. The increases are appalling by this utility and the gouging of the public is unjustified yet the PSC permits it.

RATE INCREASES FROM 2004 THROUGH 2008

May, 2004	1.7%	Fuel Adjustment
January 6, 2005	4.5%	Base Rate
May, 2005	5.3%	Fuel Adjustment
May, 2006	2.7%	Fuel Adjustment
May, 2007	1.2%	Fuel Adjustment
January 1, 2008	5.4%	Base Rate
May, 2008	1.1%	Fuel Adjustment
November, 2008	6.1%	Fuel Adjustment (Mid-Period)

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CLERK'S OFFICE

An excellent letter to the editor in *The Beaufort Gazette* states it well, see below. I hope you hear from many more citizens who are outraged by SCE&G's continual rate increases. In addition, SCE&G bears the complete responsibility for a multitude of environmental disasters. SCE&G is not a "green" operation and has shown no progressive activities to become part of the solution to energy concerns but remains a big part of the problem.

Sincerely,
 Paula Loftis
 41 Grande Oaks Way

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<http://www.islandpacket.com/2011/02/15/1547781/conservation-shouldnt-mean-higher.html>

Conservation shouldn't mean higher utility rates

Published Tuesday, February 15, 2011

I recently received a utility bill, and included in it was instructions on how to conserve energy. It indicated that we should turn down our thermostats and walk around our houses bundled up in sweaters, jackets and mittens.

I realized that when we as good citizens attempt to conserve energy, the utility companies then run to the local or state commissions that control their charges. They cry that their profit margins are falling off, and because they are protected by law, they need to raise rates. The commissions say, "Why you poor thing, we will just allow you to increase your rates." It has reached the point that ordinary citizens no longer can afford to heat or cool their houses.

Why can't the commissions that control these rates simply say to the utility companies, "Why don't you attempt to control expenses better and maintain your profits with more efficiency?"

Ron Cook Bluffton

Read more: <http://www.islandpacket.com/2011/02/15/1547781/conservation-shouldnt-mean-higher.html#ixzz1EQMMaa58>